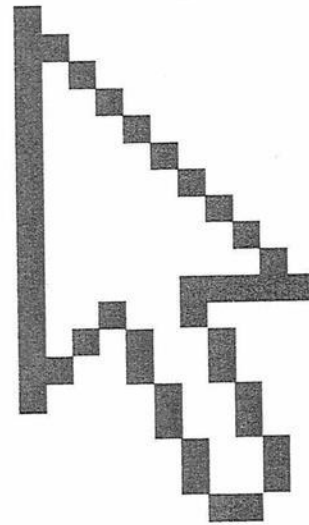


Microsoft

Microsoft

Computer Dictionary

Fifth Edition



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working on the same technology at different companies or research institutions to meet and exchange their experiences. *See* beginning-of-file.

boilerplate *n.* Recyclable text; a piece of writing or code, such as an organization's mission statement or the graphics code that prints a software company's logo, which can be used over and over in many different documents. The size of boilerplate text can range from a paragraph or two to many pages. It is, essentially, generic composition that can be written once, saved on disk, and merged, either verbatim or with slight modification, into whatever documents or programs later require it.

boldface *n.* A type style that makes the text to which it is applied appear darker and heavier than the surrounding text. Some applications allow the user to apply a "Bold" command to selected text; other programs require that special codes be embedded in the text before and after words that are to be printed in boldface. **This sentence appears in boldface.**

bomb¹ *n.* A program planted surreptitiously, with intent to damage or destroy a system in some way—for example, to erase a hard disk or cause it to be unreadable to the operating system. *See also* Trojan horse, virus, worm.

bomb² *vb.* To fail abruptly and completely, without giving the user a chance to recover from the problem short of restarting the program or system. *See also*abend, bug (definition 1), crash² (definition 1), hang.

bonding *n.* 1. Acronym for **Bandwidth On Demand Interoperability Group**. 2. The process of combining two or more ISDN B (bearer) channels to form a single channel with a bandwidth greater than the standard B channel bandwidth of 64 Kbps. Bonding two B channels, for example, provides a bandwidth of 128 Kbps, which is four times faster than a 28.8 Kbps modem. Such high-speed channels are ideal for video conferencing, imaging, and transferring large-scale data. *See also* B channel, BRI, ISDN.

bonding *vb.* *See* link aggregation.

bookmark *n.* 1. A marker inserted at a specific point in a document to which the user may wish to return for later reference. 2. In Netscape Navigator, a link to a Web page

or other URL that a user has stored in a local file in order to return to it later. *See also* Favorites folder, hotlist, URL.

bookmark file *n.* 1. A Netscape Navigator file containing the addresses of preferred Web sites. It is synonymous with the Favorites folder in Internet Explorer and the hotlist in Mosaic. *See also* Favorites folder, hotlist, Internet Explorer, Mosaic. 2. A rendering of such a file in HTML format, generally posted on a Web page for the benefit of other people. *See also* HTML.

Boolean *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of logical (true, false) values. Many languages directly support a Boolean data type, with predefined values for true and false; others use integer data types to implement Boolean values, usually (although not always) with 0 equaling false and "not 0" equaling true. *See also* Boolean algebra, Boolean operator.

Boolean algebra *n.* An algebra, fundamental to computer operations but developed in the mid-nineteenth century by English mathematician George Boole, for determining whether logical propositions are true or false rather than for determining the values of numerical expressions. In Boolean algebra, variables must have one of only two possible values, *true* or *false*, and relationships between these variables are expressed with logical operators, such as AND, OR, and NOT. Given these two-state variables and the relationships they can have to one another, Boolean algebra produces such propositions as $C = A \text{ AND } B$, which means that *C* is *true* if and only if both *A* is *true* and *B* is *true*; thus, it can be used to process information and to solve problems. Furthermore, Boolean logic can be readily applied to the electronic circuitry used in digital computing. Like the binary numbers 1 and 0, *true* and *false* are easily represented by two contrasting physical states of a circuit, such as voltages, and computer circuits known as logic gates control the flow of electricity (bits of data) so as to represent AND, OR, NOT, and other Boolean operators. Within a computer, these logic gates are combined, with the output from one becoming the input to another so that the final result (still nothing more than sets of 1s and 0s) is meaningful data, such as the sum of two numbers. *See the illustration. See also* adder (definition 1), binary¹, Boolean operator, gate (definition 1), logic circuit, truth table.